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(71) Applicant: **WYETH** [US/US]; Five Giralda Farms, Madison, NJ 07940-0874 (US).

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(72) Inventors: **GROSS, Jonathan, Laird**; 23 Buford Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691 (US). **STACK, Gary, Paul**; 525 Brookfield Lane, Ambler, PA 19002 (US).

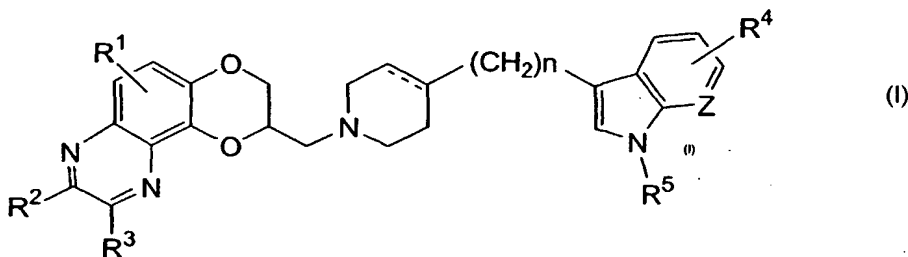
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(74) Agents: **BARRETT, Rebecca, R.**; Wyeth, Patent Law Department, Five Giralda Farms, Madison, NJ 07940-0874 et al. (US).

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(54) Title: ANTIDEPRESSANT AZAHETEROCYCLYMETHYL DERIVATIVES OF 2,3-DIHYDRO-1,4-DIOX-
INO[2,3-f]QUINOXALINE



(57) Abstract: Compounds of the formula (I) are useful for the treatment of depression and other diseases such as obsessive compulsive disorder, panic attacks, generalized anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, sexual dysfunction, eating disorders, obesity, addictive disorders caused by ethanol or cocaine abuse and related illnesses.

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ANTIDEPRESSANT AZAHETEROCYCLYMETHYL DERIVATIVES OF
2,3-DIHYDRO-1,4-DIOXINO[2,3-f]QUINOXALINE

5 This invention relates to antidepressant azaheterocyclymethyl derivatives of 2,3-dihydro-1,4-dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxaline, to processes for preparing them, methods of using them and to pharmaceutical compositions containing them.

Background of the Invention

10 Major depression is a serious health problem affecting more than 5% of the population, with a life-time prevalence of 15-20%.

 Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors have produced significant success in treating depression and related illnesses and have become among the most
15 prescribed drugs. They nonetheless have a slow onset of action, often taking several weeks to produce their full therapeutic effect. Furthermore, they are effective in fewer than two-thirds of patients.

 Serotonin selective reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) are well known for the treatment of depression and other conditions. SSRIs work by blocking the neuronal
20 reuptake of serotonin, thereby increasing the concentration of serotonin in the synaptic space, and thus increasing the activation of postsynaptic serotonin receptors.

 However, although a single dose of an SSRI can inhibit the neuronal serotonin transporter which would be expected to increase synaptic serotonin, long-term treatment is required before clinical improvement is achieved.

25 It has been suggested that the SSRIs increase the serotonin levels in the vicinity of the serotonergic cell bodies and that the excess serotonin activates somatodendritic autoreceptors, 5-HT_{1A} receptors, causing a decrease in serotonin release in major forebrain areas. This negative feedback limits the increment of synaptic serotonin that can be induced by antidepressants.

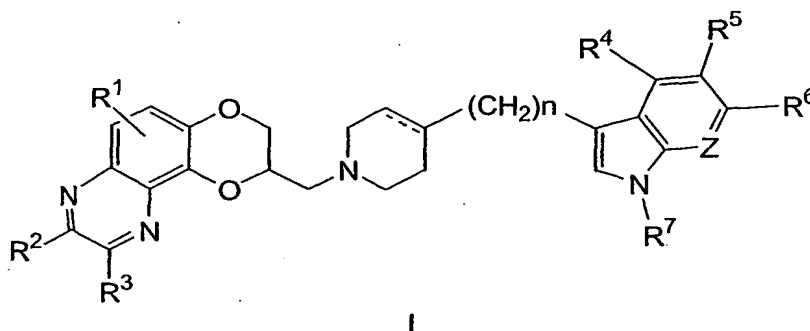
30 A 5-HT_{1A} antagonist would limit the negative feedback and should improve the efficacy of the serotonin reuptake mechanism. (Perez, V., et al., *The Lancet*, 349:1594-1597 (1997)). Such a combination therapy would be expected to speed up the effect of the serotonin reuptake inhibitor.

Thus, it is highly desirable to provide improved compounds which both inhibit serotonin reuptake and which are antagonists of the 5-HT_{1A} receptor.

Description of the Invention

5

In accordance with this invention, there is provided a group of novel compounds of the formula:



10 wherein

R¹, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶ and R⁸ are, independently, hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, carboxamido, carboalkoxy of two to six carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanoyloxy of 2 to 6 carbon atoms, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino in which each alkyl group has 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanamido of 2 to 6 carbon atoms, or alkanesulfonamido of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

15

R² and R³, are independently, hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, halogen, hydroxy, cyano or amino;

R⁷ is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

20

the dotted line represents an optional double bond;

Z is CR⁸ or N; and

n is an integer 0, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

25

Of these compounds, the preferred members are those in which R¹ is hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, trifluoromethyl, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms or

alkoxy of one to six carbon atoms. Still more preferred are compounds in which R^1 is hydrogen.

In other preferred embodiments R^2 is hydrogen, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino in which each alkyl group has one to six carbon
5 atoms. Still more preferred are compounds in which R^2 is hydrogen or lower alkyl.

R^3 is preferably hydrogen or alkyl of one to six carbon atoms. Still more preferred are compounds in which R^3 is hydrogen or lower alkyl.

10 In some embodiments of the present invention it is preferred that R^2 and R^3 are the same and are selected from hydrogen and lower alkyl.

R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are preferably independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, carboxamido, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms, and alkoxy of one to
15 six carbon atoms. R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are more preferably independently selected from hydrogen and halogen.

R^7 is preferably hydrogen.

When Z is CR^8 , then R^8 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, carboxamido, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms, or alkoxy of one to six carbon atoms.

20 It is preferred in some embodiments of the invention that n is 0 or 1. Still more preferred is when n is 0.

In other preferred embodiments of the present invention R^1 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, trifluoromethyl, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms or alkoxy of one
25 to six carbon atoms; R^2 is hydrogen, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino in which each alkyl group has one to six carbon atoms; R^3 is hydrogen or alkyl of one to six carbon atoms; R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, carboxamido, alkyl of one to six carbon
30 atoms, or alkoxy of one to six carbon atoms; and n is an integer 0 or 1.

Most preferred are compounds in which R^2 and R^3 are the same and are hydrogen or alkyl of one to six carbon atoms, R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are independently

selected from hydrogen, halogen and cyano, R^7 is hydrogen, Z is CR^8 , R^8 is preferably hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, carboxamido, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms or alkoxy of one to six carbon atoms, n is 0 and the dotted line represents a double bond.

5

Alkyl as used herein refers to an aliphatic hydrocarbon chain and includes straight and branched chains such as methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec-butyl, t-butyl, n-pentyl, isopentyl, neo-pentyl, n-hexyl, and isohexyl. Lower alkyl refers to alkyl having 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

10

Alkanamido as used herein refers to the group $R-C(=O)-NH-$ where R is an alkyl group of 1 to 5 carbon atoms such as those having up to five carbon atoms as exemplified above.

15

Alkanoyloxy as used herein refers to the group $R-C(=O)-O-$ where R is an alkyl group of 1 to 5 carbon atoms such as those having up to five carbon atoms as exemplified above.

Alkanesulfonamido as used herein refers to the group $R-S(O)_2-NH-$ where R is an alkyl group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, e.g. as exemplified above.

Alkoxy as used herein refers to the group $R-O-$ where R is an alkyl group of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, e.g. as exemplified above..

20

Carboxamido as used herein refers to the group $-CO-NH_2$.

Carboalkoxy as used herein refers to the group $RO-C(=O)-$ where R is an alkyl group of 1 to 5 carbon atoms such as those having up to five carbon atoms as exemplified above.

25

Halogen (or halo) as used herein refers to chlorine, bromine, fluorine and iodine.

30

This invention relates to both the R and S stereoisomers of the amino-methyl-2,3-dihydro-1,4-dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalines, as well as to mixtures of the R and S stereoisomers. Throughout this application, the name of the product of this invention, where the absolute configuration of the aminomethyl-2,3-dihydro-1,4-dioxino[2,3-f]-quinoxalines is not indicated, is intended to embrace the individual R and S enantiomers as well as mixtures of the two. In some embodiments of the present invention the S stereoisomer is preferred.

Where a stereoisomer is preferred, it may in some embodiments be provided substantially free of the corresponding enantiomer. Thus, an enantiomer substantially free of the corresponding enantiomer refers to a compound which is isolated or separated via separation techniques or prepared free of the corresponding enantiomer.

- 5 Substantially free, as used herein means that the compound is made up of a significantly greater proportion of one stereoisomer. In preferred embodiments the compound is made up of at least about 90% by weight of a preferred stereoisomer. In other embodiments of the invention, the compound is made up of at least about 99% by weight of a preferred stereoisomer. Preferred stereoisomers may be isolated from
- 10 racemic mixtures by any method known to those skilled in the art, including high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and the formation and crystallization of chiral salts or by methods described herein. See, for example, Jacques, et al., Enantiomers, Racemates and Resolutions (Wiley Interscience, New York, 1981); Wilen, S.H., et al., Tetrahedron 33:2725 (1977); Eliel, E.L. Stereochemistry of Carbon
- 15 Compounds (McGraw-Hill, NY, 1962); Wilen, S.H. Tables of Resolving Agents and Optical Resolutions p. 268 (E.L. Eliel, Ed., Univ. of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, IN 1972).

- It is further recognized that tautomers of the claimed compounds may exist for
- 20 instance when R² or R³ is OH, the compounds may exist in a number of tautomeric forms. The claims in the application, either for the title compounds or intermediates are intended to embrace individual tautomers, as well as mixtures thereof.

- Pharmaceutically acceptable salts are those derived from such organic and
- 25 inorganic acids as: acetic, lactic, citric, cinnamic, tartaric, succinic, fumaric, maleic, malonic, mandelic, malic, oxalic, propionic, hydrochloric, hydrobromic, phosphoric, nitric, sulfuric, glycolic, pyruvic, methanesulfonic, ethanesulfonic, toluenesulfonic, salicylic, benzoic, and similarly known acceptable acids.

- 30 Specific compounds of the present invention include:

2-[[4-(5-fluoro-1H-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2H)-pyridinyl]methyl]-2,3-dihydro-[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxaline;

2-[[4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-2,3-dihydro-[1,4]-
dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline;

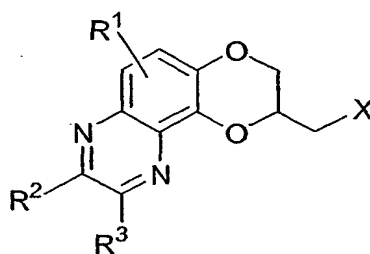
2-[[4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-8,9-dimethyl-2,3-
dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline;

5 2-[[4-(5-fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-8,9-dimethyl-
2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline;

8,9-diethyl-2-[[4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-2,3-
dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline; and

8,9-diethyl-2-[[4-(5-fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]-methyl]-
10 2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline; and pharmaceutically accept-able salts
thereof.

Novel intermediates are provided in some embodiments of the invention. Said
intermediates have the formula



II

wherein

R¹ hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, carboxamido, carboalkoxy of two to six
carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 6
20 carbon atoms, alkanoyloxy of 2 to 6 carbon atoms, amino, mono- or di-
alkylamino in which each alkyl group has 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanamido
of 2 to 6 carbon atoms, or alkanesulfonamido of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

R² and R³ are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon
atoms, halogen, hydroxy, cyano and amino;

25 X is hydroxy, halogen, alkylsulfonate of 1 to 6 carbon atoms,
trifluoromethanesulfonate or benzenesulfonate, in which the benzene ring
is optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, cyano, alkyl of 1
to 6 carbon atoms or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

Compounds of Formula II are particularly useful in the preparation of compounds of Formula I. Preferred examples of compounds of Formula II include:

2,3-Dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate;

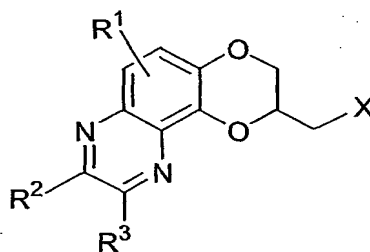
8,9-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methyl-

5 benzenesulfonate; and

8,9-diethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate.

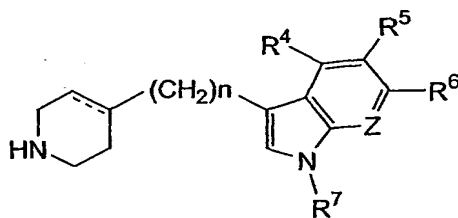
This invention also provides a process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as defined above or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises one of the following:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

15 wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined above and X is halogen, hydroxy, alkylsulfonate of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, trifluoromethanesulfonate or benzenesulfonate, in which the benzene ring is optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, cyano, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms; with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein n, Z, R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are as defined above;

or

(b) converting a basic compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof;

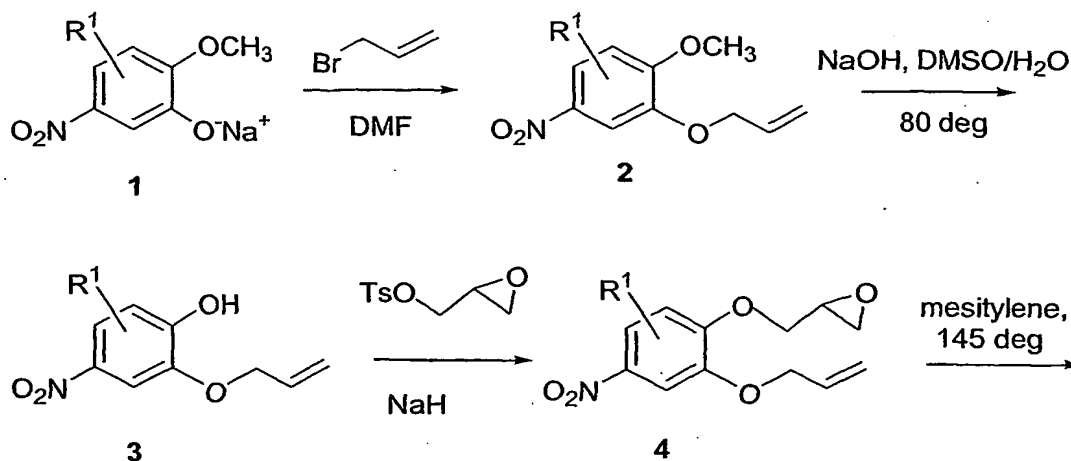
or

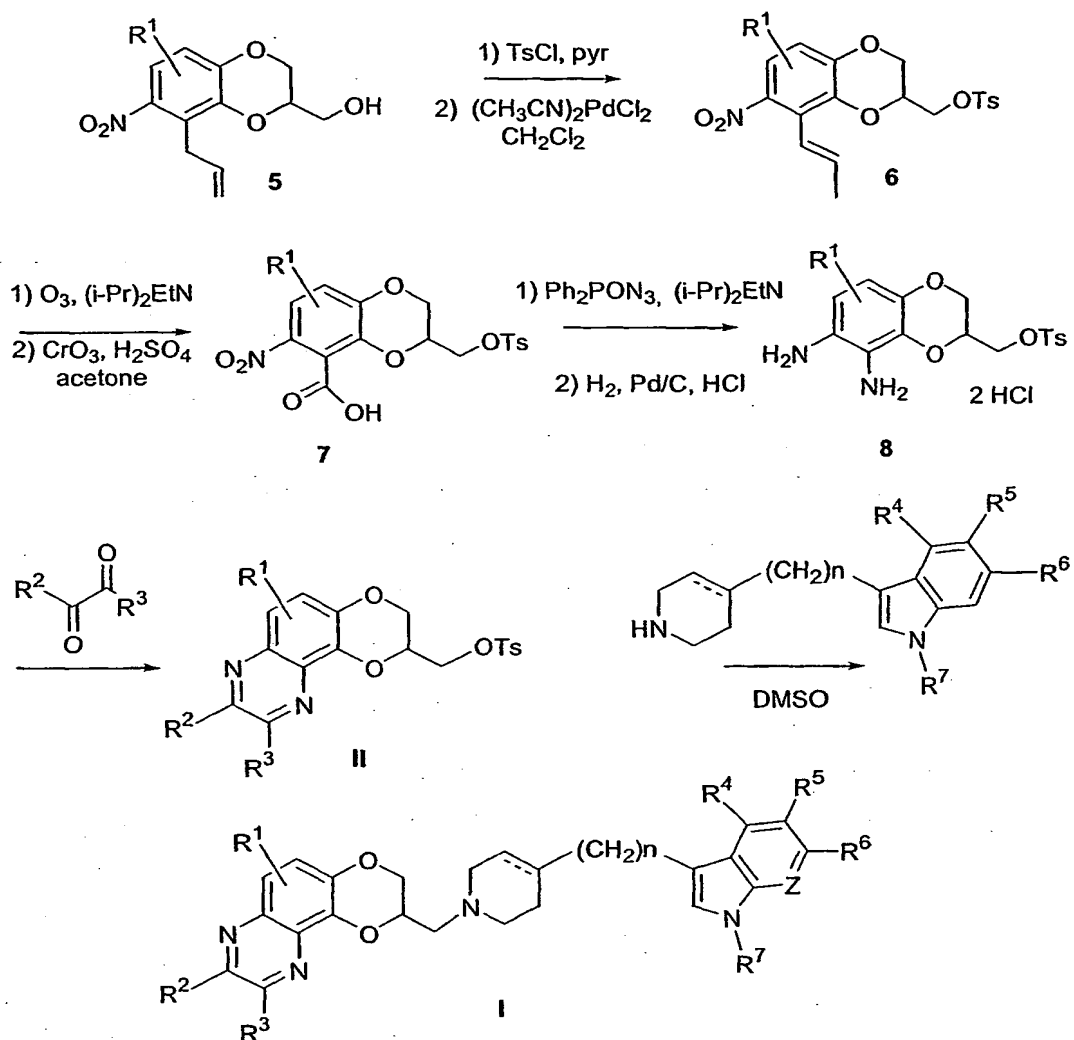
(c) resolving an isomeric mixture of compounds of formula (I) to isolate an enantiomer of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

5

If necessary in any of the reactions described herein reactive substituent groups may be protected prior to the reaction and released thereafter.

The 2-azaheterocyclylmethyl-2,3-dihydro-1,4-dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalines of the
10 invention are conveniently prepared as illustrated in Schemes I-III. Specifically, the appropriately substituted nitroguaiacol (1) is alkylated with allyl bromide in the presence of a suitable base such as sodium hydride to produce (2) and then demethylated by a reagent such as sodium hydroxide. The resulting 4-nitro-2-allyloxyphenol (3) is then alkylated with glycidyl tosylate or an epihalohydrin in the
15 presence of a base such as sodium hydride to produce (4) and heated in a high boiling solvent such as mesitylene or xylene to effect both rearrangement of the allyl group and cyclization of the dioxan ring. The resulting primary alcohol (5) is converted to the tosylate by reaction with p-toluenesulfonyl chloride in the presence of a tertiary amine or alternatively to a halide by reaction with carbon tetrabromide or carbon
20 tetrachloride in combination with triphenylphosphine. The allyl side chain is then isomerized by treatment with catalytic bis-acetonitrile palladium (II) chloride in refluxing methylene

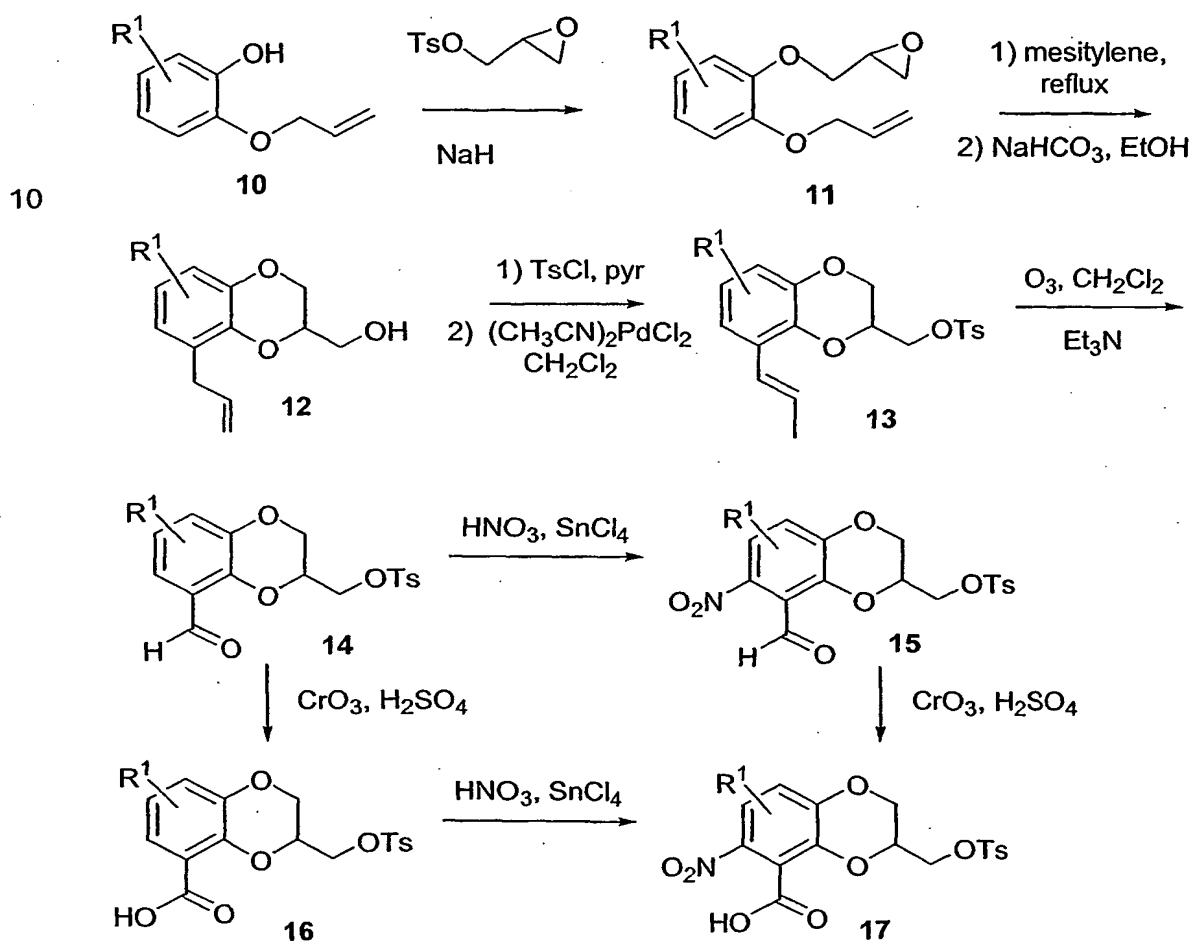




- 5 chloride or benzene to produce (6) and cleaved to the corresponding o-nitrobenzaldehyde by treatment with ozone followed by diisopropylethylamine or by catalytic osmium tetroxide in the presence of sodium periodate. The aldehyde is oxidized to the o-nitrobenzoic acid (8) by a suitable oxidant such as chromium trioxide (Jones' oxidation) or sodium chlorite and the acid converted to the o-nitroaniline with
- 10 diphenylphosphoryl azide (DPPA) in the presence of a tertiary base such as diisopropylethylamine. Reduction of the resulting nitroaniline to the diamine (8) with hydrogen and palladium on carbon and cyclization by treatment with the appropriate

dicarbonyl compound in some high boiling solvent such as dimethyl sulfoxide gives the title compounds of Formula I.

The o-nitrobenzaldehydes and the o-nitrobenzoic acids used in the chemistry described in Scheme I may be alternatively prepared as described in Scheme II. The appropriate mono-allylated catechol (10) is elaborated with glycidyl tosylate as described above to produce (11) and rearranged in refluxing mesitylene. Cyclization to the

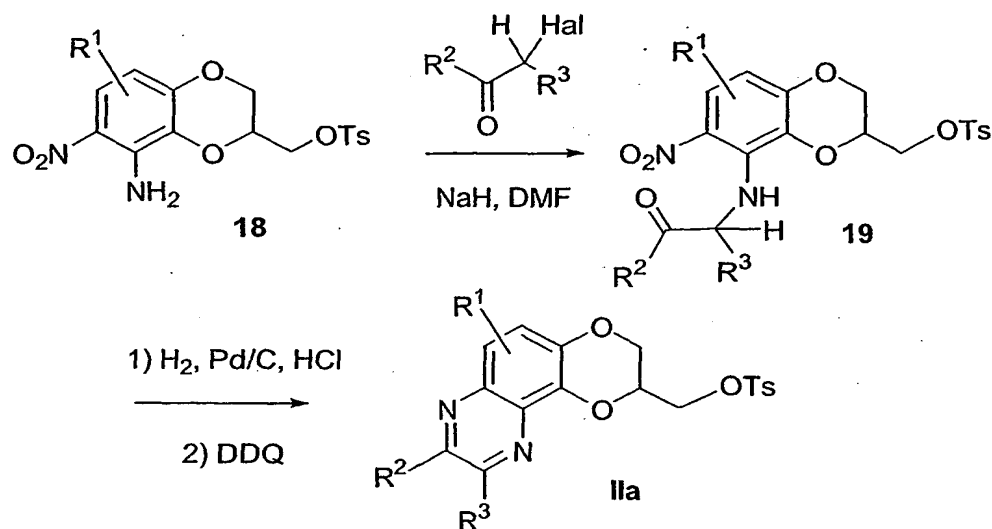


Scheme II

benzodioxan methanol (12) is effected by treatment with sodium bicarbonate in ethanol and the alcohol is converted to the tosylate or halide as described above.

After rearrangement of the double bond by treatment with catalytic bis-acetonitrile palladium (II) chloride in refluxing methylene chloride to produce (13) and cleavage with ozone or osmium tetroxide/sodium periodate as described above, the resulting aldehyde (14) is regioselectively nitrated with a combination of nitric acid and tin (IV) chloride to produce (15). Alternatively, the aldehyde may be oxidized to the corresponding benzoic acid under Jones' conditions as described above to produce (16) and subsequently nitrated to produce the appropriate o-nitrobenzoic acid (17).

Compounds of the invention in which R^2 and R^3 are not identical may be prepared from assymetric dicarbonyl compounds as described above and the regioisomers separated by chromatography. They may alternatively be prepared from the o-nitroaniline described above as shown in Scheme III. The appropriately substituted o-nitroaniline (18) is deprotonated with a base such as sodium hydride and alkylated with a suitable α -haloketone or aldehyde, or an α -haloacetal or ketal to produce (19). The nitro group is then converted to an amine by hydrogenation over a catalyst such as palladium on carbon and cyclization effected with hydrochloric acid. A suitable oxidant such as dichloro-dicyanoquinone is employed to rearomatize the heterocyclic ring to produce (IIa). Substitution of an α -halonitrile for the α -haloketone in this process leads to compounds of the invention in which R^2 is amino; substitution of an α -haloester leads to compounds in which R^2 is hydroxy. This hydroxy group may be converted to a halogen using standard



Scheme III

methods such as treatment with phosphoryl chloride or thionyl chloride and the halide
 5 may be used to prepare compounds of the invention in which R² is mono- or
 dialkylamino or alkoxy. Replacement of the tosylate with the appropriately substituted
 azaheterocycle as above gives the title compounds of the invention.

The guaiacols, catechols and azaheterocycles appropriate to the above
 10 chemistry are known compounds or can be prepared by one schooled in the art. The
 compounds of the invention may be resolved into their enantiomers by conventional
 methods or, preferably, the individual enantiomers may be prepared directly by
 substitution of (2R)-(-)-glycidyl 3-nitrobenzenesulfonate or tosylate (for the S
 benzodioxan methanamine) or (2S)-(+)-glycidyl 3-nitrobenzene-sulfonate or tosylate
 15 (for the R enantiomer) in place of epihalohydrin or racemic glycidyl tosylate in the
 procedures above.

A protocol similar to that used by Cheetham et. al. (Neuropharmacol. 32:737,
 1993) was used to determine the affinity of the compounds of the invention for the
 20 serotonin transporter. The compound's ability to displace ³H-paroxetine from male rat
 frontal cortical membranes was determined using a Tom Tech filtration device to
 separate bound from free ³H-paroxetine and a Wallac 1205 Beta Plate[®] counter to

quantitate bound radioactivity. K_i 's thus determined for standard clinical antidepressants are 1.96 nM for fluoxetine, 14.2 nM for imipramine and 67.6 nM for zimelidine. A strong correlation has been found between ^3H -paroxetine binding in rat frontal cortex and ^3H -serotonin uptake inhibition.

5

High affinity for the serotonin 5-HT_{1A} receptor was established by testing the claimed compound's ability to displace [^3H] 8-OHDPAT (dipropylamino-tetralin) from the 5-HT_{1A} serotonin receptor following a modification of the procedure of Hall et al., J. Neurochem. 44, 1685 (1985) which utilizes CHO cells stably transfected with human 5-HT_{1A} receptors. The 5-HT_{1A} affinities for the compounds of the invention are reported below as K_i 's.

Antagonist activity at 5-HT_{1A} receptors was established by using a ^{35}S -GTP γ S binding assay similar to that used by Lazareno and Birdsall (Br. J. Pharmacol. 109: 1120, 1993), in which the test compound's ability to affect the binding of ^{35}S -GTP γ S to membranes containing cloned human 5-HT_{1A} receptors was determined. Agonists produce an increase in binding whereas antagonists produce no increase but rather reverse the effects of the standard agonist 8-OH DPAT. The test compound's maximum inhibitory effect is represented as the I_{max} , while its potency is defined by the IC_{50} .

20

The results of the three standard experimental test procedures described in the preceding three paragraphs were as follows:

25	5-HT Transporter Affinity			5-HT _{1A} Receptor Affinity	5-HT _{1A} Function
	<u>Compound</u>	<u>K_i (nM)</u>		<u>K_i (nM)</u>	<u>IC₅₀ (nM) (I_{max})</u>
	Example 1	0.50		17.72	270.5 (100)
	Example 2	2.86		29.99	203.0 (100)
	Example 3	1.19		15.28	332.0 (100)
30	Example 4	1.57		25.53	389.0 (100)
	Example 5	9.50		99.18	1859.0 (98.0)
	Example 6	14.00		264.30	2242.0 (100)

Hence, the compounds of this invention are combined serotonin reuptake inhibitors/5-HT_{1A} antagonists and are useful for the treatment of conditions related to or affected by the reuptake of serotonin and by the serotonin 1A receptor, such as depression, (including but not limited to major depressive disorder, childhood
5 depression and dysthymia), anxiety, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, premenstrual dysphoric disorder (also known as pre-menstrual syndrome), attention deficit disorder (with and without hyperactivity), obsessive compulsive disorder (including trichotillomania), social anxiety disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, obesity, eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, vasomotor
10 flushing, cocaine and alcohol addiction, sexual dysfunction (including premature ejaculation), and related illnesses. Moreover, the compounds of this invention have potent affinity for and antagonist activity at brain 5-HT_{1A} serotonin receptors. Recent clinical trials employing drug mixtures (eg, fluoxetine and pindolol) have demonstrated a more rapid onset of antidepressant efficacy for a treatment combining SSRI activity
15 and 5-HT_{1A} antagonism (Blier and Bergeron, 1995; F. Artigas et. al., 1996; M. B. Tome et. al., 1997). The compounds of the invention are thus exceedingly interesting and useful for treating depressive illnesses.

Thus the present invention provides methods of treating, preventing, inhibiting
20 or alleviating each of the maladies listed above in a mammal, preferably in a human, the methods comprising providing a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of this invention to the mammal in need thereof.

Also encompassed by the present invention are pharmaceutical compositions
25 for treating or controlling disease states or conditions of the central nervous system comprising at least one compound of Formula I, mixtures thereof, and or pharmaceutical salts thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefore. Such compositions are prepared in accordance with acceptable pharmaceutical procedures, such as described in *Remingtons Pharmaceutical Sciences*, 17th edition,
30 ed. Alfonso R. Gennaro, Mack Publishing Company, Easton, PA (1985). Pharmaceutically acceptable carriers are those that are compatible with the other ingredients in the formulation and biologically acceptable.

The compounds of this invention may be administered orally or parenterally, neat or in combination with conventional pharmaceutical carriers. Applicable solid carriers can include one or more substances which may also act as flavoring agents, lubricants, solubilizers, suspending agents, fillers, glidants, compression aids, binders or tablet-disintegrating agents or an encapsulating material. In powders, the carrier is a finely divided solid which is in admixture with the finely divided active ingredient. In tablets, the active ingredient is mixed with a carrier having the necessary compression properties in suitable proportions and compacted in the shape and size desired. The powders and tablets preferably contain up to 99% of the active ingredient. Suitable solid carriers include, for example, calcium phosphate, magnesium stearate, talc, sugars, lactose, dextrin, starch, gelatin, cellulose, methyl cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, low melting waxes and ion exchange resins.

Liquid carriers may be used in preparing solutions, suspensions, emulsions, syrups and elixirs. The active ingredient of this invention can be dissolved or suspended in a pharmaceutically acceptable liquid carrier such as water, an organic solvent, a mixture of both or pharmaceutically acceptable oils or fat. The liquid carrier can contain other suitable pharmaceutical additives such as solubilizers, emulsifiers, buffers, preservatives, sweeteners, flavoring agents, suspending agents, thickening agents, colors, viscosity regulators, stabilizers or osmo-regulators. Suitable examples of liquid carriers for oral and parenteral administration include water (particularly containing additives as above e.g. cellulose derivatives, preferably sodium carboxymethyl cellulose solution), alcohols (including monohydric alcohols and polyhydric alcohols e.g. glycols) and their derivatives, and oils (e.g. fractionated coconut oil and arachis oil). For parenteral administration the carrier can also be an oily ester such as ethyl oleate and isopropyl myristate. Sterile liquid carriers are used in sterile liquid form compositions for parenteral administration.

Liquid pharmaceutical compositions which are sterile solutions or suspensions can be utilized by, for example, intramuscular, intraperitoneal or subcutaneous injection. Sterile solutions can also be administered intravenously. Oral administration may be either liquid or solid composition form.

Preferably the pharmaceutical composition is in unit dosage form, e.g. as tablets, capsules, powders, solutions, suspensions, emulsions, granules, or suppositories. In such form, the composition is sub-divided in unit dose containing
5 appropriate quantities of the active ingredient; the unit dosage forms can be packaged compositions, for example packeted powders, vials, ampoules, prefilled syringes or sachets containing liquids. The unit dosage form can be, for example, a capsule or tablet itself, or it can be the appropriate number of any such compositions in package form.

10 The amount provided to a patient will vary depending upon what is being administered, the purpose of the administration, such as prophylaxis or therapy, and the state of the patient, the manner of administration, and the like. In therapeutic applications, compounds of the present invention are provided to a patient already
15 suffering from a disease in an amount sufficient to cure or at least partially ameliorate the symptoms of the disease and its complications. An amount adequate to accomplish this is defined as a "therapeutically effective amount." The dosage to be used in the treatment of a specific case must be subjectively determined by the attending physician. The variables involved include the specific condition and the
20 size, age and response pattern of the patient. Generally, a starting dose is about 5 mg per day with gradual increase in the daily dose to about 150 mg per day, to provide the desired dosage level in the human.

Provide as used herein, means either directly administering a compound or
25 composition of the present invention, or administering a prodrug, derivative or analog which will form an equivalent amount of the active compound or substance within the body.

The present invention includes prodrugs of compounds of Formula I. "Prodrug",
30 as used herein means a compound which is convertible *in vivo* by metabolic means (e.g. by hydrolysis) to a compound of Formula I. Various forms of prodrugs are known in the art, for example, as discussed in Bundgaard, (ed.), Design of Prodrugs, Elsevier (1985); Widder, et al. (ed.), Methods in Enzymology, vol. 4, Academic Press (1985); Krogsgaard-Larsen, et al., (ed). "Design and Application of Prodrugs, Textbook of

Drug Design and Development, Chapter 5, 113-191 (1991), Bundgaard, et al., Journal of Drug Deliver Reviews, 8:1-38(1992), Bundgaard, J. of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 77:285 et seq. (1988); and Higuchi and Stella (eds.) Prodrugs as Novel Drug Delivery Systems, American Chemical Society (1975).

5

The following examples illustrate the production of representative compounds of this invention.

INTERMEDIATE 1

10

3-Allyloxy-4-methoxynitrobenzene

97.5 g (0.51 mole) of the sodium salt of 5-nitroguaiacol was dissolved in one liter of DMF and 1.5 equivalents of allyl bromide added. The reaction was heated to 65°C for two hours, after which time much of the dark color had discharged and tlc (1:1 CH₂Cl₂/hexane) indicated loss of starting material. The solvent was concentrated in vacuum and the residue washed with water. The product was isolated by filtration and dried in a vacuum. This gave 112 g of pale yellow solid. A sample recrystallized from methanol, gave m.p. 93-94°C.

20

INTERMEDIATE 2

2-Allyloxy-4-nitrophenol

To 1 L of dimethyl sulfoxide was added 750 mL of 2 N aqueous sodium hydroxide and the mixture was heated to 65°C. The pale yellow solid 3-allyloxy-4-methoxynitrobenzene prepared above was added in portions over a 30 minute period and then the temperature was raised to 95°C and maintained for 3 hours, after which time the starting material had been consumed. The mixture was allowed to cool and poured into a mixture of 1 L ice and 1 L 2 N HCl. 73 Grams of crude but homogeneous (by tlc 1:1 CH₂Cl₂/hexane) desired product was isolated as a light brown solid by filtration. This material was subsequently dissolved in 1:1 hexane/methylene chloride and filtered through silica gel to give 68 g of pale yellow solid, which, when recrystallized from ethylacetate/hexane, gave m.p. 61-62°C. The aqueous mother liquors from the initial crystallization above were extracted with 2 L of

ethyl acetate. This was dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and evaporated to a dark oil. Column chromatography on silica with 1:1 CH₂Cl₂/hexane gave an additional 12 g of the title compound as a yellow solid. Elution with 2% MeOH in CHCl₃ gave 12 g of a dark oil which slowly crystallized in vacuum. This proved to be the Claisen product, 3-allyl-4-nitrocatechol.

INTERMEDIATE 3

2-(2-Allyloxy-4-nitrophenoxy-methyl)-oxirane

20 g (0.50 mole) of 60% NaH/mineral oil was placed in a two liter flask and washed with 500 mL of hexane. One liter of DMF was added, followed by 77 g (0.40 mole) of the 2-allyloxy-4-nitrophenol prepared in the previous step. Addition of the phenol was performed in portions under argon. After stirring the mixture for 30 minutes at room temperature under argon, 108 g (0.48 moles) of (R)-glycidyl tosylate was added and the mixture heated at 70-75°C under nitrogen overnight. Upon cooling, the DMF was removed in vacuum and replaced with one liter of methylene chloride. This was washed with 500 mL portions of 2 N HCl, saturated sodium bicarbonate and saturated brine and dried over sodium sulfate. The mixture was filtered, concentrated to an oil in vacuum and column chromatographed on silica gel using 1:1 hexane/methylene chloride as eluant. This gave 43 g of product contaminated with traces of the two starting materials, followed by 21 g of pure product as a pale yellow solid. The impure material was recrystallized from 1.2 L of 10% ethyl acetate/hexane to give 34 g of pure (homogeneous on silica gel tlc with 1:1 hexane/methylene chloride) (R)-2-(2-allyloxy-4-nitrophenoxy-methyl)-oxirane (m.p. 64°C).

Elemental Analysis for: C₁₂H₁₃NO₅

Calc'd: C, 57.37; H, 5.21; N, 5.58

Found: C, 57.50; H, 5.21; N, 5.43

INTERMEDIATE 4**(8-Allyl-7-nitro-2,3-dihydro-benzo(1,4)dioxin-2-yl)-methanol**

(R)-2-(2-Allyloxy-4-nitrophenoxy-methyl)-oxirane (20 g, 80 mmoles) prepared
5 as above was heated at 155°C in mesitylene for 24 hours under nitrogen. Filtration of
the black solid which formed gave 1.5 g of very polar material. Evaporation of the
solvent in vacuum followed by column chromatography on silica gel with methylene
chloride as eluant gave 10 g of recovered starting material and 7.5 g of the desired
rearranged (S)-(8-allyl-7-nitro-2,3-dihydro-benzo(1,4)dioxin-2-yl)-methanol, which
10 slowly crystallized on standing in vacuum (m.p. 67°C). The yield based on recovered
starting material is 75%.

Elemental Analysis for: C₁₂H₁₃NO₅

Calc'd: C, 57.37; H, 5.21; N, 5.58

Found: C, 57.26; H, 5.20; N, 5.35

15

INTERMEDIATE 5**Toluene-4-sulfonic acid 8-allyl-7-nitro-2,3-dihydro-
benzo(1,4)dioxin-2-ylmethyl ester**

20 9.55 g (38.0 mmole) of (S)-(8-allyl-7-nitro-2,3-dihydro-benzo(1,4)dioxin-2-yl)-
methanol was dissolved in 465 mL of pyridine, 29.0 g (152 mmole) of p-
toluenesulfonyl chloride was added and the mixture stirred at room temperature under
nitrogen overnight. Water was then added to quench the excess tosyl chloride and
the solvent was removed in vacuum and replaced with methylene chloride. This
25 solution was washed with 2 N HCl, with saturated sodium bicarbonate, and with
saturated brine, and dried over magnesium sulfate. Filtration, evaporation in vacuum
and column chromatography on silica gel with 1:1 hexane/methylene chloride as
eluant gave 12.6 g (92%) of toluene-4-sulfonic acid (R)-allyl-7-nitro-2,3-
benzo(1,4)dioxin-2-ylmethyl ester, which slowly crystallized to a tan solid (m.p. 60-
30 62°C) upon standing.

Elemental Analysis for: C₁₉H₁₉NO₇S

Calc'd: C, 56.29; H, 4.72; N, 3.45

Found: C, 56.13; H, 4.58; N, 3.44

INTERMEDIATE 6**{7-Nitro-8-[1-propenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-yl)methyl
4-methylbenzenesulfonate**

5

To a solution of 10.0 g (24.0 mmole) of (R)-[8-allyl-7-nitro-2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-yl)methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate in 700 mL of benzene was added 1.03 g of bis(acetonitrile)dichloropalladium (II) and the mixture was refluxed under nitrogen for 48 hours. The catalyst was then removed by filtration and the filtrate concentrated in vacuum to a brown oil. Column chromatography on silica gel with methylene chloride as eluant gave 7.2 g of the title compound as a mixture of E and Z isomers. A sample of {(2R)-7-nitro-8[(E)-1-propenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-yl)methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate was obtained as a yellow solid (m.p. 105-106°C) by evaporation of a pure E isomer-containing fraction.

10
15 Elemental Analysis for: C₁₉H₁₉NO₇SCalc'd: C, 56.29; H, 4.72; N, 3.45Found: C, 56.12; H, 4.64; N, 3.39**INTERMEDIATE 7**

20

**(8-Formyl-7-nitro-2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-yl)methyl
4-methylbenzenesulfonate**

{(2R)-7-Nitro-8-[1-propenyl]-2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-yl)methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (10.5 g, 25.9 mmole) dissolved in 400 mL of methylene chloride was treated with excess ozone at -78°C. Diisopropylethylamine (11.5 mL, 66.0 mmole) was then added dropwise over 30 min and the mixture allowed to come to room temperature and stir overnight under a nitrogen atmosphere. The mixture was then diluted to 600 mL with methylene chloride, washed three times with 100 mL portions of 2N HCl (aq), twice with 200 mL portions of saturated aqueous sodium bicarbonate and with 200 mL of saturated brine. The solution was dried over magnesium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuum to a crude brown oil, which was column chromatographed on silica gel with 10% hexane/methylene chloride to give 7.52 g of the (R)-enantiomer of the title compound as a yellow solid. ¹H-NMR

(CDCl₃): doublet 7.8 δ (2 H); doublet 7.62 δ (1 H); doublet 7.4 δ (2 H); doublet 7.0 δ (1 H); multiplet 4.4-4.6 δ (2 H); multiplet 4.2 δ (3 H); singlet 2.4 δ (3 H).

INTERMEDIATE 8

5

6-Nitro-3-(toluene-4-sulfonyloxymethyl)-2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-5-yl) carboxylic acid

The oxidation reagent was prepared by dissolving 7.0 g (70 mmole) of chromium trioxide in 10 mL of water in a 50 mL beaker. The beaker was immersed in an ice bath and 6.1 mL (110 mmoles) of concentrated sulfuric acid added, followed by 20 mL additional water. The oxidant was added dropwise to a solution of (2R)-(8-formyl-7-nitro-2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin -2-yl)methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (12.4 g, 30.6 mmole) dissolved in 100 mL of acetone and cooled in an ice bath. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 3 hours after the addition was complete.

15 Sodium bisulfite was then added in small portions until the brown color was gone. The mixture was diluted to 500 mL with water and extracted twice with 300 mL portions of ethyl acetate. The combined extracts were washed with 300 mL of water and with 300 mL of saturated brine, dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and evaporated to 13.4 g of the (R)-enantiomer of the title compound as a viscous yellow oil.

20 ¹H-NMR (CDCl₃): 2 superimposed doublets 7.8 δ (3 H); doublet 7.4 δ (2 H); doublet 7.0 δ (1 H); multiplet 4.55 δ (1 H); doublet 4.45 δ (1 H); multiplet 4.25 δ (3 H); singlet 2.4 δ (3 H).

INTERMEDIATE 9

25

Toluene-4-sulfonic acid 8-amino-7-nitro-2,3-dihydro-benzo(1,4)dioxin-2-ylmethyl ester

To 7.0 g (17 mmole) of (S)-6-nitro-3-(toluene-4-sulfonyloxymethyl)-2,3-dihydro-benzo[1,4]dioxin-5-yl) carboxylic acid in 250 mL of THF was added 9.4 g (34 mmole) of diphenylphosphoryl azide and 5.2 g (40 mmole) of diisopropyl-ethylamine and the mixture was refluxed under nitrogen for 24 hours. Water (3 mL) was added and the mixture refluxed under nitrogen overnight. The reaction was diluted to 600 mL with ethyl acetate and washed with 300 mL portions of 1 N HCl, saturated aqueous sodium

30

bicarbonate and saturated brine. The mixture was then dried over sodium sulfate, filtered and concentrated in vacuum and the residue column chromatographed on silica gel with methylene chloride as eluant to give 4.1 g of the (R)-enantiomer of the title compound as a yellow solid (m.p. 155°C).

5 Elemental Analysis for: C₁₆H₁₆N₂O₇S

Calc'd: C, 50.52; H, 4.24; N, 7.36

Found: C, 50.27; H, 3.99; N, 7.23

INTERMEDIATE 10

10 **[7,8-Diamino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-yl]methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate**

Toluene-4-sulfonic acid (2R)-8-amino-7-nitro-2,3-dihydro-benzo(1,4)-dioxin-2-ylmethyl ester (4.1 g, 11 mmole) was dissolved in 200 mL of methanol to which 0.50 g of 10% palladium on carbon had been added. 4 N isopropanol HCl (10 mL) was then added and the mixture treated with 60 psi of hydrogen on a Parr apparatus overnight. The mixture was filtered through celite and concentrated in vacuum to give 4.6 g of the (R)-enantiomer of the title compound as a pink solid (m.p. 178-180°C).

Elemental Analysis for: C₁₆H₁₈N₂O₅S • 2 HCl

Calc'd: C, 45.40; H, 4.76; N, 6.62

20 Found: C, 45.06; H, 4.63; N, 6.47

INTERMEDIATE 11

2,3-Dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate

25 To a solution of [(2R)-7,8-diamino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-yl]methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (2.226 g, 5.258 mmole) in water (50 mL) was added a solution of glyoxal trimeric dihydrate (1.104 g, 5.258 mmole) in ethyl alcohol (50 mL) and the reaction mixture was heated at 60 °C for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate (250 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (100 mL), aqueous sodium chloride (100 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate) and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude solid. Purification by flash column chromatography (silica, ethyl acetate:hexanes 7:3)

gave 1.135 g (58%) of the (R)-enantiomer of the title compound as a brown crystalline solid. $R_f = 0.27$ (silica, ethyl acetate:hexanes 3:2); mp 124-127°C.

Elemental Analysis for: $C_{18}H_{16}N_2O_5S \cdot 0.2 H_2O$

Calc'd: C, 57.50; H, 4.39; N, 7.45

5 Found: C, 57.27; H, 4.37; N, 7.04

EXAMPLE 1

2-{[4-(5-Fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl}-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline

10

To a solution of (2*R*)-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (0.462 g, 1.241 mmole) in methyl sulfoxide (25 mL) was added 5-fluoro-3-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl)-1*H*-indole (1.073 g, 4.962 mmole) and the reaction mixture was heated to 80°C for 12 hours. The reaction mixture was
15 allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with ethyl acetate (250 mL), washed with water (2 x 100 mL), aqueous sodium chloride (100 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate) and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude solid. Purification by flash column chromatography (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9) followed by recrystallization from ethanol provided 0.382 g (74%) of the (S)-
20 enantiomer of the title compound as a tan solid. $R_f = 0.37$ (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9); mp >200°C dec.

Elemental Analysis for: $C_{24}H_{21}FN_4O_2 \cdot 0.2 H_2O$

Calc'd: C, 68.63; H, 5.14; N, 13.34

Found: C, 68.61; H, 5.35; N, 13.16

25

EXAMPLE 2

2-{[4-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl}-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*] quinoxaline

30

To a solution of (2*R*)-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (0.300 g, 0.856 mmole) in methyl sulfoxide (20 mL) was added 3-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl)-1*H*-indole (0.639 g, 3.222 mmole) and the

reaction mixture was heated to 80°C for 12 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with ethyl acetate (200 mL), washed with water (2 x 100 mL), aqueous sodium chloride (100 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate) and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude solid. Purification by flash column chromatography (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9) followed by recrystallization from ethanol provided 0.248 g (77%) of the (S)-enantiomer of the title compound as a pale yellow solid. $R_f = 0.36$ (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9); mp >220°C dec.

Elemental Analysis for: $C_{24}H_{22}N_4O_2 \cdot 0.25 H_2O$

10 Calc'd: C, 71.54; H, 5.63; N, 13.90

Found: C, 71.36; H, 5.63; N, 13.62

INTERMEDIATE 12

8,9-Dimethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl

15

4-methylbenzenesulfonate

To a solution of [(2R)-7,8-diamino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-yl]-methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (2.170 g, 5.126 mmole) in water (50 mL) was added a solution of 2,3-butanedione (0.552 g, 6.408 mmole) in ethyl alcohol (50 mL) and the reaction mixture was heated at 60°C for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate (250 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (100 mL), aqueous sodium chloride (100 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate) and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude solid. Purification by flash column chromatography (silica, ethyl acetate:hexanes 7:3) gave 1.525 g (74%) of the (R)-enantiomer of the title compound as a white crystalline solid. $R_f = 0.50$ (silica, ethyl acetate:hexanes 7:3); mp 153-155°C.

Elemental Analysis for: $C_{20}H_{20}N_2O_5S \cdot 0.21 C_4H_8O_2$

Calc'd: C, 59.75; H, 5.22; N, 6.69

30 Found: C, 59.36; H, 5.02; N, 6.69

EXAMPLE 3**2-[4-(1*H*-Indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-8,9-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline**

5 To a solution of [(2*R*)-8,9-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxalin-2-yl]methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (0.400 g, 1.000 mmole) in methyl sulfoxide (20 mL) was added 3-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl)-1*H*-indole (0.495 g, 2.497 mmole) and the reaction mixture was heated to 80°C for 12 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with ethyl acetate (250 mL),
10 washed with water (2 x 100 mL), aqueous sodium chloride (100 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate) and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude solid. Purification by flash column chromatography (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9) followed by recrystallization from ethanol provided 0.262 g (62%) of the (S)-enantiomer of the title compound as a pale yellow solid. $R_f = 0.32$ (silica,
15 methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9); mp 153-155°C.

Elemental Analysis for: C₂₆H₂₆N₄O₂ · 0.2 H₂O

Calc'd: C, 72.60; H, 6.19; N, 13.03

Found: C, 72.39; H, 6.15; N, 12.83

EXAMPLE 4**2-[4-(5-Fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-8,9-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline**

To a solution of [(2*R*)-8,9-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxalin-2-yl]methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (0.400 g, 1.000 mmole) in methyl sulfoxide (20
25 mL) was added 5-fluoro-3-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl)-1*H*-indole (0.540 g, 2.497 mmole) and the reaction mixture was heated to 80°C for 12 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with ethyl acetate (250 mL), washed with water (2 x 100 mL), aqueous sodium chloride (100 mL), dried
30 (magnesium sulfate) and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude solid. Purification by flash column chromatography (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9) followed by recrystallization from ethanol provided 0.239 g (54%) of the (S)-

enantiomer of the title compound as a pale yellow solid. $R_f = 0.35$ (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9); mp 138-141°C.

Elemental Analysis for: $C_{26}H_{25}FN_4O_2 \cdot H_2O$

Calc'd: C, 67.37; H, 6.09; N, 12.09

5 Found: C, 66.96; H, 5.95; N, 11.85

INTERMEDIATE 13

8,9-Diethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate

10

To a solution of [(2*R*)-7,8-diamino-2,3-dihydro-1,4-benzodioxin-2-yl]-methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (2.226 g, 5.258 mmole) in water (50 mL) was added a solution of 3,4-hexanedione (0.750 g, 6.572 mmole) in ethyl alcohol (50 mL) and the reaction mixture was heated at 60°C for 3 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to
15 cool to room temperature and was diluted with aqueous sodium hydrogen carbonate (250 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 100 mL). The combined organic extracts were washed with water (100 mL), aqueous sodium chloride (100 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate) and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude solid. Purification by flash column chromatography (silica, ethyl acetate:hexanes 7:3) gave
20 1.796 g (80%) of the (R)-enantiomer of the title compound as a tan crystalline solid. $R_f = 0.85$ (silica, ethyl acetate:hexanes 7:3); mp 132-135 °C.

Elemental Analysis for: $C_{22}H_{24}N_2O_5S \cdot 0.1 H_2O$

Calc'd: C, 61.41; H, 5.67; N, 6.51

Found: C, 61.21; H, 5.67; N, 6.43

25

EXAMPLE 5

8,9-Diethyl-2-{[4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl}-2,3- dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxaline

30

To a solution of (2*R*)-8,9-diethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (0.300 g, 0.700 mmole) in methyl sulfoxide (20 mL) was added 3-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl)-1*H*-indole (0.555 g, 2.800 mmole)

and the reaction mixture was heated to 80°C for 12 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with ethyl acetate (250 mL), washed with water (2 x 100 mL), aqueous sodium chloride (100 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate) and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude solid.

- 5 Purification by flash column chromatography (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9) followed by recrystallization from ethanol provided 0.184 g (58%) of the (S)-enantiomer of the title compound as a yellow crystalline solid. $R_f = 0.41$ (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9); mp >120°C dec.

Elemental Analysis for: $C_{28}H_{30}N_4O_2 \cdot 0.7 H_2O$

- 10 Calc'd: C, 71.99; H, 6.77; N, 11.99

Found: C, 71.85; H, 6.91; N, 11.96

EXAMPLE 6

- 15 8,9-Diethyl-2-[[4-(5-fluoro-1H-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2H)-pyridinyl]methyl]-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxaline

- To a solution of (2R)-8,9-diethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate (0.300 g, 0.700 mmole) in methyl sulfoxide (20 mL) was added 5-fluoro-3-(1,2,3,6-tetrahydro-4-pyridinyl)-1H-indole (0.606 g, 2.800 mmole) and the reaction mixture was heated to 80°C for 12 hours. The reaction mixture was allowed to cool to room temperature and was diluted with ethyl acetate (250 mL), washed with water (2 x 100 mL), aqueous sodium chloride (100 mL), dried (magnesium sulfate) and the solvent was removed *in vacuo* to give a crude solid. Purification by flash column chromatography (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9) followed by recrystallization from ethanol provided 0.161 g (49%) of the (S)-enantiomer of the title compound as a yellow crystalline solid. $R_f = 0.38$ (silica, methanol:ethyl acetate 1:9); mp >120°C dec.

Elemental Analysis for: $C_{28}H_{29}FN_4O_2 \cdot H_2O$

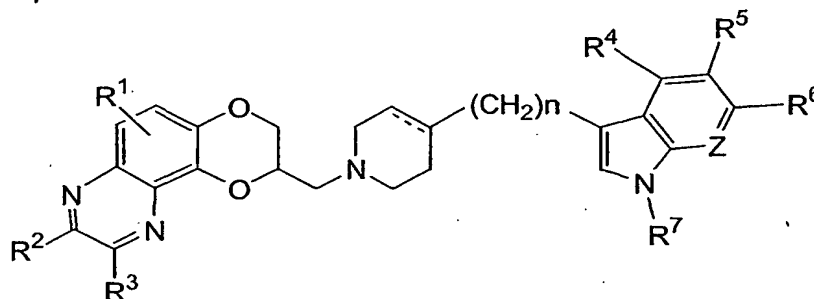
Calc'd: C, 68.55; H, 6.37; N, 11.42

- 30 Found: C, 68.33; H, 6.43; N, 11.27

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 (1) A compound of formula I



wherein

- 10 R^1 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and R^8 are, independently, hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, carboxamido, carboalkoxy of two to six carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanoyloxy of 2 to 6 carbon atoms, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino in which each alkyl group has 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanamido of 2 to 6 carbon atoms, or alkane-sulfonamido of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

- 15 R^2 and R^3 are, independently, hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, halogen, hydroxy, cyano or amino;

R^7 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

the dotted line represents an optional double bond;

Z is CR^8 or N; and

- 20 n is an integer 0, 1 or 2;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

- (2) A compound of Claim 1 wherein R^1 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, trifluoromethyl, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms or alkoxy of one to six carbon atoms.

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- (3) A compound according to Claim 1 or Claim 2 wherein R^2 is hydrogen, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino in which each alkyl group has one to six carbon atoms.

- (4) A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein R^3 is hydrogen or alkyl of one to six carbon atoms.
- 5 (5) A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4 wherein R^2 and R^3 are the same.
- (6) A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 wherein R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, cyano, carboxamido, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms, and alkoxy of one to six carbon atoms.
- 10 (7) A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6 wherein n is an integer 0.
- (8) A compound of Claim 1 in which R^1 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, trifluoromethyl, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms or alkoxy of one to six carbon atoms;
- 15 R^2 is hydrogen, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino in which each alkyl group has one to six carbon atoms; R^3 is hydrogen or alkyl of one to six carbon atoms; R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, carboxamido, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms, and alkoxy of one to six carbon atoms; n is an integer 0 or 1; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- 20 (9) A compound of Claim 1 in which R^1 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, trifluoromethyl, alkyl of one to six carbon atoms or alkoxy of one to six carbon atoms; R^2 and R^3 are the same and are hydrogen or alkyl of one to six carbon atoms, R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen and cyano, R^7 is
- 25 hydrogen, n is 0 and the dotted line represents a double bond; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
- (10) A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 wherein Z is CR^8 and R^8 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, carboxamido, alkyl of one to six carbon atom, or
- 30 alkoxy of one to six carbon atoms.
- (11) A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 9 wherein Z is CR^8 and R^8 is hydrogen, halogen or cyano.

(12) A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 which is the S stereoisomer.

(13) The compound of Claim 1 which is 2-[[4-(5-fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

(14) The compound of Claim 1 which is 2-[[4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

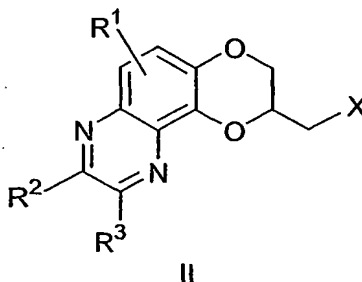
(15) The compound of Claim 1 which is 2-[[4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-8,9-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

(16) The compound of Claim 1 which is 2-[[4-(5-fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-8,9-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

(17) The compound of Claim 1 which is 8,9-diethyl-2-[[4-(1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

(18) The compound of Claim 1 which is 8,9-diethyl-2-[[4-(5-fluoro-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3,6-dihydro-1(2*H*)-pyridinyl]methyl]-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-*f*]quinoxaline or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

(19) A compound of the formula



wherein

5 R^1 is hydrogen, hydroxy, halo, cyano, carboxamido, carboalkoxy of two to six carbon atoms, trifluoromethyl, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanoyloxy of 2 to 6 carbon atoms, amino, mono- or di-alkylamino in which each alkyl group has 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkanamido of 2 to 6 carbon atoms, or alkanesulfonamido of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

R^2 and R^3 are independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, halogen, hydroxy, cyano or amino;

10 X is hydroxy, halogen, alkylsulfonate of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, trifluoromethanesulfonate or benzenesulfonate, in which the benzene ring is optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, cyano, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

(20) A compound of Claim 19 which is:

15 2,3-Dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate;

 8,9-dimethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-yl]methyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate; or

20 8,9-diethyl-2,3-dihydro[1,4]dioxino[2,3-f]quinoxalin-2-ylmethyl 4-methylbenzenesulfonate.

(21) A method of treating a subject suffering from a condition selected from the group consisting of depression, anxiety, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, premenstrual dysphoric disorder, attention deficit disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, social anxiety disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, obesity, eating disorders, vasomotor flushing, cocaine and alcohol addiction, and sexual dysfunction, which comprises providing to the subject suffering from said condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 18 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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(22) The method of Claim 21 wherein the condition is depression.

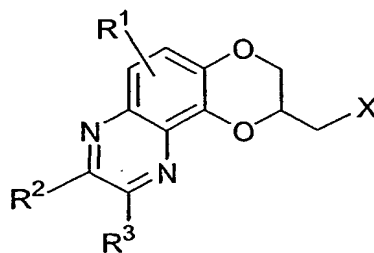
(23) The method of Claim 21 wherein the condition is obsessive compulsive disorder, panic attacks, generalized anxiety disorder, or social anxiety disorder.

(24) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula I as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 18 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

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(25) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises one of the following:

(a) reacting a compound of formula (II)

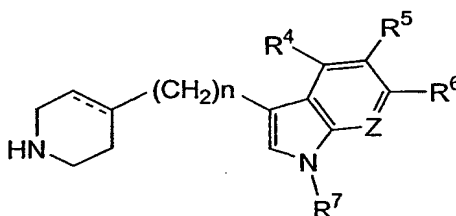


(II)

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wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are as defined in claim 1 and X is halogen, hydroxy, alkylsulfonate of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, trifluoromethanesulfonate or benzenesulfonate, in which the benzene ring is optionally substituted with halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, cyano, alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms or alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

15 with a compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein n, Z, R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and R^7 are as defined in claim 1;

or

20 (b) converting a basic compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof;

or

(d) resolving an isomeric mixture of compounds of formula (I) to isolate an enantiomer of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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(71) Applicant: WYETH [US/US]; Five Giralda Farms, Madison, NJ 07940-0874 (US).

(72) Inventors: GROSS, Jonathan, Laird; 23 Buford Road, Robbinsville, NJ 08691 (US). STACK, Gary, Paul; 525 Brookfield Lane, Ambler, PA 19002 (US).

(74) Agents: BARRETT, Rebecca, R.; Wyeth, Patent Law Department, Five Giralda Farms, Madison, NJ 07940-0874 et al. (US).

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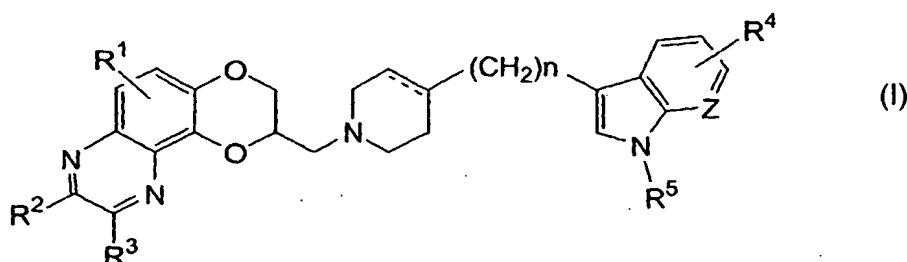
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: ANTIDEPRESSANT AZAHETEROCYCLYLMETHYL DERIVATIVES OF 2,3-DIHYDRO-1,4-DIOX-
INO[2,3-f]QUINOXALINE



(57) Abstract: Compounds of the formula (I) are useful for the treatment of depression and other diseases such as obsessive compulsive disorder, panic attacks, generalized anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, sexual dysfunction, eating disorders, obesity, addictive disorders caused by ethanol or cocaine abuse and related illnesses.

WO 02/088144 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.
PCT/JP 02/12859

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C07D519/00 C07D491/04 A61K31/5025 A61P25/00
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 C07D A61K A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, BEILSTEIN Data, CHEM ABS Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 0 771 800 A (AMERICAN HOME PROD) 7 May 1997 (1997-05-07) claims	1-25
A	WO 91 13872 A (UPJOHN CO) 19 September 1991 (1991-09-19) claims	1-25
A	WO 97 23485 A (KNOLL AG ; BIRCH ALAN MARTIN (GB); BRADLEY PAUL ANTHONY (GB); GILL) 3 July 1997 (1997-07-03) claims	1-25



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited document:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
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T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

S document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

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European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel: (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Chouly, J

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 02/12859

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

Although claims 21-23 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (1)) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inventor's International Application No

PCT/US 02/12859

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Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (July 1992)